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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

For decades, in the urban area where I live, ISP options were very limited. Competition was virtually non-existent. Customers were at the mercy of artificial price structures put in place by the two available options. Although it has taken several years, it is clear that relevant components of the 1996 Telecommunications Act have fostered a marketplace that has allowed an increase in competition and a significant improvement in the available options. Anything changes that would limit competitive access by companies such as Sonic would be hugely detrimental and digressive for the local telecommunications environment.

The companies that are providing alternatives for ISP customers have established themselves as not only important participants as regards pricing and competition, but also as innovators in the field, often introducing technologies that the larger legacy companies have been slow or reluctant to provide. It is only because Sonic was willing to make the infrastructure investment in optical fibre that I was able to get an internet connection that was competitive with international ISP speeds (see South Korea, Japan, much of Europe.)

I am very opposed to any changes requested by the large legacy carriers. It's obvious that any requests would be serving their own interests and reduce the amount of competition that is the essence of a healthy market.

Please decline the petition from the nation's largest carriers to change key elements of the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

Roland Kniese